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SUNDAY
MAY 24, 1953

Versailles for lunch today. The Van Starkenborghs came down, as did Eugene Black and Eve Curie. Lee Van Starkenborgh and myself had a long talk on the basis of which I sent the following telegram:

"I discussed EDC with Van Starkenborgh Sunday. He said that to date -- Dutch have been unaffected in their QUOTE pedestrian UNQUOTE procedures toward ratification by alleged change of Soviet climate or by other considerations. Nevertheless he will check this again with his Government Tuesday. However, he is deeply concerned by consequences that might result from entry of Gaullists into French Government. He thinks they would only do so if they were able to effect a compromise with other parties on EDC and alter previous French foreign policy in this regard. He has no confidence in stability or courage of French politicians likely to come to power.

"I share some of his apprehension as to possibility such deal with Gaullists and resultant dangerous implications for EDC ratification (see COLED 82) but subject to observation that Gaullist party badly split and impossible to predict how portions of it will coalesce. In a private conversation with Reynaud Friday I told him on my own responsibility that any attempts further to confuse, delay or compromise EDC policy would meet with a most unfavorable reaction in the US."

After lunch E., Eve and I took a walk in the park. Eve is as enchanting as ever and [redacted] interested in her NATO work, where she is a Special Assistant to Ismay.

Anne and John Brown dropped in to our surprise and pleasure. They have been touring Austria and Germany looking at baroque houses and buildings and are on their way to the Coronation ceremonies in London.

The Slaters came to dinner. Loulou worked for a long time at the Morgan Library and is [redacted] interested in manuscripts, paintings, coins, and all

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sorts of odd objects besides being very pretty. They are making no progress in buying a place near Paris. I continue to urge patience since dealing in French real estate is about as frustrating a performance as one can imagine. However, after some months they are rather desperately considering locating on the Italian Riviera. Her daughter had a dreadful accident in the elevator at their hotel in Saint Germain. Her leg was caught between the elevator and the floor and was badly mangled. She has been in the American Hospital for some weeks with her leg in a plaster cast and they do not yet know whether the tendons, muscles, bones and so forth have been permanently damaged.

We spent the night at Versailles.

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